



WINTER ICE CLIMBING

ITINERARY



From late June through early August the hut at Black Peak, Wanaka, offers some of the most quickly & easily accessible frozen waterfall ice climbing in New Zealand. The ice-climbing site at Black Peak is not easily accessible by the general public which means you can enjoy your ice-climbing without competing for space on a route. Each evening return to our cosy private hut, at 1800m on the mid-reaches of Black Peak (2283m). No tenting! Snuggle up into a warm bunk at the end of the day. Whether you are already a strong rock climber and want to transition to this new medium, a mountaineer who wants to get more experience on steeper ice, or you are a fit adventurous novice who is enthusiastic about learning a new skill, then our ice climbing course is for you!

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	E - Technical climbing. Good level of fitness is required. Good hill walking is essential, you will not need to carry a heavy pack.
START	Wanaka: The guide will meet you the day before departure, 5pm, at 58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, to do a full gear check and finalise last minute details.
FINISH	Wanaka
ACCOMMODATION	Huts
DEPARTURES	July 2018: 1, 6, 12, 17, 22, 31
PRICES	1:3-4 ratio NZD \$2,150 1:2 ratio NZD \$2,690

"THIS COURSE TEACHES YOU TO CLIMB SMARTER NOT HARDER"

I would absolutely recommend this course to any aspiring mountaineer and ice climber needing to improve their technical proficiency and experience on steep ice. A lot of focus is put in to being able to identify safe climbing routes on the ice fall, good axe and foot placement and body positioning. This course has helped me developed more efficient techniques and safer climbing habits necessary to pursue the larger mountaineering objectives.

~ Alistair, July 2018

ITINERARY

We like all clients to have had a little experience with belaying - even just be a few hours in a climbing gym. You can book some time with one of the guides if you want to and we will match people up on the courses to keep the course to all beginners or all experienced.

DAY 0 PRE-TRIP MEETING

Meet at the Aspiring Guides office in Wanaka (58 McDougall Street) at 5pm for an hour long pre-trip meeting. Introductions are made and course outline reviewed. Equipment is checked and allocated by your guide. Any last minute questions are answered regarding gear.

DAY 1 BLUE CREEK

Meet early at the Aspiring Guides office (58 McDougall Street, Wanaka) to prepare lunch before driving to the heli pad located about 20 min up the Matukituki Valley. Here you load into the helicopter and after dropping your overnight gear at the hut you fly to the foot of the ice in Blue Creek. Your guide will introduce you to the basics of climbing as you get your first taste of steep ice. You will begin with easy top roping routes while you get your bearings in this beautiful frozen world. After a full day climbing it is back to the hut for a well earned rest. The hut is located 300m above the ice, and if there is a previous track the hike back to the hut takes about 30 minutes, but it can take much longer if ploughing through fresh snow.

DAY 2 - 3 BLACK PEAK

After a big breakfast it is back to the ice for more climbing. There are many routes, and after mastering some of the low angle routes climbers begin to explore steeper options. Many people give leading a try and learn the exhilaration of being on the sharp end! You will learn about placing ice screws and roped protection techniques as well as other safety topics. Depending on snow conditions many groups take an afternoon to climb to the summit of nearby Black Peak.

DAY 4 HELICOPTER PICK-UP

After packing up and organizing gear to be picked up by the helicopter (no heavy packs this trip!) it is back to the ice for one last whack and dangle. Many people develop a pet project to climb clean without falling and this is the final test! The helicopter arrives once everyone is tired and then it is back to the valley floor. Return to Wanaka for a hot shower and the sharing of stories over a beer or two.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE C

Technical Difficulty

This is the perfect place to learn what waterfall ice is all about. No mountaineering or rock climbing experience is required but it is highly recommended to have had some practice belaying. With the safety of a top rope you will be able to push your ability and learn the intricacies of climbing on ice. People with previous rock climbing experience will appreciate the technical differences offered when climbing with ice axes and crampons and may progress to controlled lead climbs under the supervision of the guide.

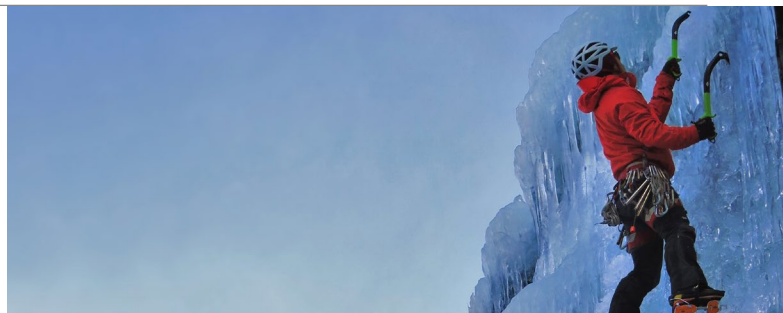
Physical Difficulty

A good level of fitness is required. Ice climbing puts a premium on balance and good co-ordination. Steeper climbing requires strong hands and arms but lower angled climbing uses the legs and calf muscles. The hut is located 300 vertical meters from the ice and if it snows it can be a challenging hike back at the end of the day. Good hill walking ability is essential. You will not need to carry a heavy pack. Expect short bursts of intense effort - your arms and calf muscles will wish you had warned them of what was coming!



GUIDES AND SAFETY

The specialist guides are 'hand-picked' from within the industry. The climbing team are qualified through the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. The NZMGA are affiliated to the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association who governs mountain guiding worldwide. The high level of expertise, comprehensive logistics support and refreshing personalities are the basis of our internationally renowned reputation for providing a quality and personalised service.



TRANSPORT

Included in this trip are the helicopter flights direct to and from the ice, maximising your time on the ice routes.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on this trip is in our cosy private hut (already set up with sleeping bags etc).

FOOD

A lot of work is put into supplying you with wholesome meals with a variety of healthy and tasty ingredients and snacks catering to common preferences.

Where possible, fresh vegetables and real coffee will be provided. However, there will always be limitations when cooking in an alpine or wilderness environment. Meals like salads are limited or not possible to provide. Some trips/courses are not recommended for people with very restrictive or complex dietary requirements. If you do have a restrictive eating regime we ask that you disclose this at the time of booking and we may ask you to provide us with an advance copy of what you would typically eat on a wilderness trip.

For highly specialised diets requiring special food purchases - we may ask that you attend our offices on the day before your trip is due to commence. If you are joining a scheduled group that doesn't have food requirements, we may ask you to shop & pay for some of your preferred dietary requirements. You will also be required to carry this food and your guide may ask you to assist in the preparation of any separate meals required for you individually.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

What's included:

- Helicopter flights in and out (direct to/from the ice maximising your time on the ice routes)
- NZMGA or IFMGA qualified guide
- Technical equipment
- Accommodation in our cosy private hut (already set up with sleeping bags etc)
- Meals and energy foods
- Hut, park and landing fees

Not included:

- Rental of ice climbing boots
- Snowshoes (if they are required)

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

If your party is unable to egress from the mountains at the end of your trip for any reason, a fee of NZ\$550 plus expenses (including but not limited to hut & park fees) per extra day is applicable to your party, and is divided between the trip participants.

QUESTIONS

In an emergency are we in contact with the outside world while on our trip?

All climbing trips and courses are in radio and phone communications with the Operations/Safety base and the Department of Conservation local office that manages each National Park area. Weather information and coordination of helicopters are through these channels. In some circumstances mountain radio links are available for the relay of any urgent messages.

What about the weather?

New Zealand is famous for its changeable weather. The mountains here are characterised by long sunny fine periods mixed with sudden and sometimes heavy rain or snow. Our experienced guides are well equipped to provide the best possible trip and have many years experience in judging the conditions.

What about my other luggage and valuables?

Additional luggage and valuables can be securely stored at the office in Wanaka during your trip.

What if I want to book as a single?

Try to choose a scheduled date, and if that doesn't fit, let us know. We can book you as a single and then will try to match others to your dates. If we cannot find at least one other person for the dates you want, one month before the start date we will give you a full refund.

How heavy does my pack need to be?

You will only need to carry a day pack of about 5 – 8kg.

How do I get to Wanaka?

The closest airport is in Queenstown, 1 hour away. Some flights from Australia come direct into Queenstown. There are regular shuttles between Queenstown airport and Wanaka.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Changes

N.B : Please note that this itinerary is a sample only and the actual itinerary may vary at the discretion of your guide. Weather, conditions and personal ability and needs may make changes necessary or advantageous to the participants.

Payment

For bookings 4 or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 65 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required.

Cancellations

Over 60 days before tour: \$200 per person

Between 60 days and 30 days before tour: 50% of total trip fee as a cancellation fee

29 days and 15 days: 75% of total course fee as a cancellation fee

15 days or less before tour: NO REFUND

No refund for any services not utilised after tour has started.

If the weather remains adverse and prevents the trip from operating, you have the opportunity to carry out sub alpine adventure and skill development activities. The Guide fee applies and any trip costs not utilised will be refunded.

Travel Insurance

Injuries are covered by the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). ACC pays for the majority of costs incurred in evacuation and treatment of injured people. They do not cover you in case of illness. We recommend that you have travel insurance that will cover you in being repatriated to your home country. Most standard travel insurance policies that cover lost deposit or cancellation fees will cover you in case you are somehow prevented from participating in the trip.

Medical Conditions:

When you book you must notify us of any medical condition, medical history, or medications that you are on. In particular, asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, anti-depressants, allergies to wasp/bee stings and food allergies.

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIALS

Body

- ☐ Base layer: 2x top & 1x bottom thermal underwear – polypro or merino e.g. icebreaker (no cotton)
- ☐ Mid layer: fleece top
- ☐ Mid layer: insulating jacket e.g. primaloft, synthetic down or fleece
- ☐ Climbing trousers: polyamide/nylon or light weight fleece
- ☐ Shell jacket: water & windproof e.g. Gore-Tex
- ☐ Shell pants/overpants: water & windproof e.g. Gore-Tex (available for hire)
- ☐ Underwear (one spare only)

Head/face

- ☐ Warm hat / balaclava
- ☐ Sun glasses

Feet

- ☐ Climbing boots – rigid sole, plastic or leather (available for hire)
- ☐ 2 pairs of warm socks
- ☐ Gaiters – full calf length (available for hire or purchase)

Hands

- ☐ Lightweight thin polypro gloves
- ☐ Warm windproof gloves

Technical equipment (supplied at no charge)

- ☐ Climbing helmet
- ☐ Crampons - preferably clip on with anti-balling plates
- ☐ Ice axe -standard curve & length (60–80cm) with leash
- ☐ Technical ice axe
- ☐ Technical ice hammer
- ☐ Ice Screws x 1
- ☐ Quickdraw x 1
- ☐ Snowstake
- ☐ Climbing harness
- ☐ Belay device
- ☐ Sling: 120cm sewn spectra
- ☐ Carabiners - Screw lock x 4 Snap link x 3
- ☐ Prussic slings (6 mm) – 1 x 2.8m and 2 x 1.6 m (loop length)
- ☐ Avalanche transceiver/shovel/probe

Personal equipment & accessories

- ☐ Back pack (35-45 litres) with 2 loops for ice axe and crampon attachments (available for hire)
- ☐ Water bottle – 1.5 to 2 litres - wide mouth (available for purchase)
- ☐ Head torch with LED plus sport beams & spare batteries (available for purchase)
- ☐ Foot blister protection & personal medication
- ☐ Small container of sun block & lip screen – maximum protection
- ☐ Sleeping bag liner (supplied at no charge)

Trip dependent

If you have these items please bring them along on your trip if it's not a hassle, otherwise they can be hired or purchased in Wanaka if they are needed. Your guide will discuss if these items are required when you do your equipment check at the beginning of your trip.

- ☐ Rock climbing shoes (available for hire from MT Outdoors- www.mtoutdoors.co.nz)
- ☐ Snow goggles (available for hire)
- ☐ Snow shoes (available for hire)
- ☐ Sleeping bag down or synthetic 3/4 season weight (available for hire)

Optional

- ☐ Mid-layer down jacket
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Swiss army knife or leatherman
- ☐ Collapsible trekking poles (available for hire)
- ☐ Ear plugs for sleeping

